

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

including the Report of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year

**1955**



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MANOR HOUSE,  
CHESHUNT.

June, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my tenth annual report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1955.

The report follows the general lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 17/55.

Vital statistics for the district were satisfactory. The birthrate was 13.95 compared with 15.0 for England and Wales and the death rate 8.17 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. The number of infant deaths was four, being the lowest for many years. Of the total deaths in Cheshunt 38 per cent. occurred at age 75 or over. There were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year.

The number of cases of Whooping Cough was the lowest for many years but there was a minor epidemic of measles. Poliomyelitis caused some concern during the autumn.

The main effort of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year was directed to the completion of the survey on which the Council's proposals required under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were based. Further progress was made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions by the making of nineteen demolition orders.

Much attention was also given to the inspection of food premises. A high standard of food hygiene is probably most effectively achieved by frequent inspections of food premises and by advice given at the time when the need for it is apparent. With the advent of the new Food Hygiene Regulations much work will be necessary in this field.

I should like once again to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation throughout the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support.

C. R. HILLIS,  
Medical Officer of Health.

# Urban District Council of Cheshunt

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955-1956

Councillor J. W. GILLSON (*Chairman*)  
Councillor D. E. BREEZE  
Councillor R. P. ELLIS  
Councillor R. FINCHAM, J.P., C.C.  
Councillor Mrs. W. E. FINCHAM, J.P.  
Councillor D. T. HICKMAN  
Councillor Mrs. E. C. OAKDEN  
Councillor R. R. VENABLES  
Councillor R. WHITLOCK, J.P.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :*  
CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.CH.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :*  
JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Act:*  
C. WILSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1, 3, 4)

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*  
S. C. BAKER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2, 3)

E. J. DAY, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (2, 3)  
(Appointed Assistant Sanitary Inspector January, 1955)  
(Appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector, July, 1955)

### GENERAL

*Clerk/Typist :* Miss T. PAVELY.

*Clerk :* Mr. R. C. LOCKWOOD.

*Rodent Operative :* Mr. P. F. DEAN.

### KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS :

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate:

1944	18,700	1948	21,210	1952	23,880
1945	18,700	1949	21,490	1953	24,670
1946	20,230	1950	22,180	1954	25,350
1947	21,080	1951	23,290	1955	26,090

Number of inhabited houses on			1955	1956
the rate books (at 1st April)			7,547	8,036

Rateable Value ... ..	£170,637	£341,684
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Sum represented by penny rate	£678	£1,440
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## VITAL STATISTICS

CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION				CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
CHESHUNT				CHESHUNT	
Number				Number	Rate
1946	...	432	21.35	188	9.29
1947	...	494	23.43	226	10.7
1948	...	418	19.71	209	9.85
1949	...	381	17.73	213	9.91
1950	...	354	15.96	221	9.96
1951	...	395	16.96	222	9.53
1952	...	368	15.41	213	8.92
1953	...	353	14.31	179	7.26
1954	...	380	14.99	192	7.57
1955	...	383	14.68	192	7.36

## COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1951	9.53	0.85	8.10	12.5
1952	8.92	0.85	7.58	11.3
1953	7.26	1.11	8.06	11.4
1954	7.57	1.11	8.40	11.3
1955	7.36	1.11	8.17	11.7

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1951	16.96	0.97	16.45	15.5
1952	15.41	0.97	14.95	15.3
1953	14.31	0.95	13.59	15.5
1954	14.99	0.95	14.24	15.2
1955	14.68	0.95	13.95	15.0

	1954	1955
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt .....	23.14	15.67

Deaths from Puerperal causes, Cheshunt:

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Deaths from other maternal causes ...	Nil	Nil

# DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births.

			Cheshunt		England and Wales
Year			No of Deaths	Rate	Rate
1946	...	...	15	34.72	43
1947	...	...	11	22.27	41
1948	...	...	6	14.35	34
1949	...	...	17	44.62	32
1950	...	...	8	22.59	29.8
1951	...	...	11	27.85	29.6
1952	...	...	6	16.30	27.6
1953	...	...	10	28.33	26.8
1954	...	...	12	31.58	25.5
1955	...	...	4	10.44	24.9

## CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1955 :

				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	2	—	2
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningoccal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	4	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	11	2	13
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	8	9	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1

	Male	Female	Total
Vascular lesions of nervous system .	5	9	14
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	28	18	46
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	3	4
Other heart disease ... ..	6	12	18
Other circulatory disease ... ..	5	6	11
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	2	8	10
Bronchitis ... ..	9	2	11
Other diseases of respiratory system .	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	9	18
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	2	—	2
All other accidents ... ..	3	3	6
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ... ..	104	88	192

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 4th Tuesday morning in each month.
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Friday: 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Wednesday and Friday 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday: 2 p.m. (Artificial Pneumothorax refills 10.30 a.m.)

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1955: 2 shift leaders, 6 ambulance drivers, 1 ambulance, 1 sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Tel.: Waltham Cross 4878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, 194, High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel.: No. W.X. 4658.) Hours: Monday to Friday, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1955: 49. Cases assisted during 1955: 282.

WELFARE  
CENTRES

Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt.  
Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Memorial Hall, Goff's Oak, 1st and 3rd  
Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 to 4.30  
p.m. Doctor attends.

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street,  
Waltham Cross. (Tel.: Waltham Cross  
3401).

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesday  
9 to 10 a.m.

Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd  
and 4th Wednesday mornings. Doctor  
attends.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Ophthalmic. Fridays 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Speech Therapy Clinic. Fridays, 9 a.m.  
to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic. Mondays 1.30 p.m. to  
3 p.m. Doctor attends.

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday  
1.45 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Orthoptic. Monday a.m. and p.m.  
Tuesday a.m. and p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS  
AND SCHOOL  
NURSES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage,  
Park Lane, Broxbourne (Hoddesdon  
2656). (H.V. and School Nurse, Wormley).

Miss M. N. Hilton, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross (Waltham Cross  
3401).

Miss J. P. Baker, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross.

Miss J. P. Young, 87, Cuffley Hill, Goff's  
Oak (Cuffley 2420).

DISTRICT NURSES  
AND MIDWIVES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage,  
Park Lane, Broxbourne (Hoddesdon  
2656). (Midwife, Turnford and Wormley).

Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, 178,  
High Street, Waltham Cross (Waltham  
Cross 3127).

Miss M. Smith, 24, Cromwell Avenue,  
Cheshunt (Waltham Cross 3580).

Miss M. G. Brown, 87, Cuffley Hill, Goff's  
Oak (Cuffley 2420).

Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead  
End (Waltham Cross 3410).

Miss G. D. Taylor, 1, Prescott Road,  
Cheshunt (Waltham Cross 2344).

Mrs. M. J. Bradford, "Utopia," Barrow  
Lane, Cheshunt (Part-time General Nurse).

Mrs. A. V. Howlett, Top Flat, 85, High  
Street, Hoddesdon. (Part-time General  
Nurse.) (Hoddesdon 3992.)

## OTHER SERVICES

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Blood donor sessions have been held at six-weekly intervals during the year at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross. More donors are still urgently needed.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss E. Munns, Honorary Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, 49, Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 3026.

### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Society has a range of medical equipment for the sick and injured, available on loan on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. The equipment is at 194, High Street, Waltham Cross. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 4658.

In addition to their normal activities the local detachment have recently organised a team which is on call for disaster relief work under the Commandant, Mrs. M. Ellis, "Folkvang," Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 3165.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

### MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year four bodies were received in the mortuary.

## SECTION III

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1954 and 1955:—

				1954	1955		
				Cases Notified	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	17	18	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	4	740	2	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	32	6	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	19	49	1	10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	4	3	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..			3	17	17	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	9	5	2	—
Food Poisoning	...			3	6	—	—
Ophthalmia							
Neonatorum				1	2	—	—
Tuberculosis	...			14	9	6	2
Paratyphoid Fever	...			—	5	3	—

#### MEASLES.

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Year				Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1955	...	...	...	740	28.36
1954	...	...	...	4	0.16
1953	...	...	...	660	26.75
1952	...	...	...	199	8.33
1951	...	...	...	580	24.90
1950	...	...	...	22	0.99
1949	...	...	...	450	20.94
1948	...	...	...	128	6.04
1947	...	...	...	324	15.37
1946	...	...	...	59	2.91

## WHOOPING COUGH.

The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year				Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1955	...	...	...	6	0.23
1954	...	...	...	32	1.26
1953	...	...	...	247	10.01
1952	...	...	...	88	3.10
1951	...	...	...	71	3.05
1950	...	...	...	130	5.86
1949	...	...	...	48	2.23
1948	...	...	...	108	5.09
1947	...	...	...	147	6.97
1946	...	...	...	53	2.61

## POLIOMYELITIS

Thirty-three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the last two quarters of the year but in sixteen cases the provisional diagnosis was not confirmed.

Of the seventeen confirmed cases nine were paralytic and eight non-paralytic. Sixteen of the patients were under 15 years of age.

There were no deaths from Poliomyelitis.

## DYSENTERY.

The five cases notified were isolated cases and the sources of infection were not traced.

## FOOD POISONING.

The causative agent in all six cases of food poisoning notified was *Salmonella Typhimurium*. Three of the cases were children of one family and the source of infection was not traced.

The other three cases were adults of one family and the suspected foodstuff was “Scotch Eggs” but no specimens were available for laboratory examination. The investigation, which included examination of stool specimens of food handlers concerned, failed to reveal the source of infection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1955 was 9, compared with 14 in 1954.

New Cases, 1955—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0— 5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	1	—	—	2
15—25	2	2	—	—	4
25—35	—	1	—	—	1
35—45	1	—	—	—	1
45—55	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—
	5	4	—	—	9

	1954	1955
Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt ... ..	11	12

There were two deaths attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1955, compared with four in 1954.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## PARATYPHOID FEVER.

Four of the five cases reported were attributed to a common source of infection. Routine surveillance of contacts was maintained.

## DISINFECTION.

Terminal disinfection of rooms and bedding is systematically carried out after open cases of tuberculosis. Generally after scarlet fever occupiers are advised thoroughly to cleanse and ventilate the room and to wash with soap and water all articles of contact.

## SECTION IV

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

##### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 3,902 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 784 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

##### SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	582
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects ... ..	99
Number of premises other than houses inspected ...	935
Premises re-inspected ... ..	933
Visits to works in progress ... ..	63
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	1,290
	3,902

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to Schools ... ..	43
„ „ swimming bath ... ..	30
„ „ moveable dwellings ... ..	38
„ re keeping of animals ... ..	18
„ „ Petroleum Acts ... ..	36
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage ... ..	258
„ „ verminous premises for disinfestation ...	1
„ „ infectious diseases and disinfections ...	136
„ „ drainage ... ..	21
„ „ rats and mice ... ..	38

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

#### CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

No action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act during the year.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of nineteen houses during the year, bringing the total number of individual unfit houses dealt with by Demolition or Closing Orders since the beginning of 1953 to fifty-nine.

The houses upon which Demolition Orders were made during 1955 were as follows:—

Address	Date Demolition Order made
1 Mill Lane, Cheshunt	28.4.55
10, 12, 14, 16 Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross	4.7.55
144 High Street, Cheshunt	27.7.55
61, 63 College Road, Cheshunt	27.9.55
30, 32, 34, 36, 38 Rowlands Fields, Cheshunt	26.10.55
18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 Rowlands Fields, Cheshunt	21.12.55

Twenty houses were demolished during the year, this number including houses on which Demolition Orders were made in previous years.

#### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Certificates of Disrepair were issued under the Act during the year in respect of thirteen houses and eight certificates were revoked, the work having been carried out satisfactorily.

The possession of the Certificate enables the tenant to refuse to pay the repairs increase until the house is repaired.

## HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Grants under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949, were approved during the year for works of improvement at thirteen dwelling-houses.

In December the Council decided for the time being to suspend operation of the provisions of the Act relating to Improvement Grants.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt:—

Permanent traditional, including flats ...	...	872
Permanent prefabricated ...	...	18
Temporary prefabricated ...	...	135
By the Edmonton Borough Council ...	...	698
By the Tottenham Borough Council ...	...	179
By Private Enterprise ...	...	678
		<hr/> 2,580

Number of houses erected during 1955:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt:—

Permanent traditional ...	...	163
By the Edmonton Borough Council ...	...	55
By Private Enterprise ...	...	261
		<hr/> 479

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

## 1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	90	34	8	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	98	38	8	—

There are two factories in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 26 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Forty-four inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

## SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance ... ..	15
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin ... ..	23
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises ... ..	118
Statutory Notices under Section 24, Public Health Act, 1936, of proposed work of Maintenance on Sewer	11
Statutory Notices under Section 157, Housing Act, 1936, before entry for the purpose of Survey and Examination ... ..	2
Statutory Notices under Food and Drugs Act, 1938-1950, prohibiting or restricting the sale of milk	2

## SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied:—

Served, 1955 ... ..	15	Complied with, 1955 ... ..	9
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1954 ... ..	1	Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1955 ... ..	4
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1953	Nil	Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1955	3
	<u>16</u>		<u>16</u>

Statutory Notices requiring provision of dustbins:—

Served, 1955 ... ..	23	Complied with by:	
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1954 ... ..	—	Owner ... ..	16
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1954	—	Occupier ... ..	Nil
		Local Authority in default ... ..	4
		Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1955 ... ..	3
		Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1954	Nil
	<u>23</u>		<u>23</u>

## Intimation Notices :—

Outstanding, 31st December, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	43
Outstanding, 31st December, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	57
Served during 1955	...	...	...	...	...	327

## WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

All dwelling-houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of approximately ten outlying cottages and farms, where the water is obtained from private sources.

During the year forty samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the private supply serving Theobalds Secondary Modern School and the Camping Ground at Theobalds Park. The supply is from a deep bore well and an automatic chlorination plant is installed.

All the samples were reported upon as satisfactory with the exception of the sample taken on 11th October, which was unsatisfactory. On investigation it was found that the tank room was infested with a species of hibernating fly and that the flies had gained access to the storage tank. Fumigation was carried out and the storage tank emptied, cleansed and chlorinated. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

## SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Routine tests for free chlorine are carried out with a chlorotex indicator.

During the season one sample of water was taken from the bath for full chemical and bacteriological examination and thirteen for bacteriological examination only. The full report criticised the clarity of the bath water relative to clear visibility at the deep end of the bath and the safety factor there concerned. All the bacteriological reports were satisfactory.

The swimming bath at Theobalds Secondary Modern School, which was constructed when the Mansion was a private residence, was opened for school use in July, after repair work had been carried out. The bath is operated on the fill and empty system with water from the chlorinated private supply at the school. Seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the season and four of these samples were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Three of the unsatisfactory samples were taken during the first three weeks while adjustments were being made to the arrangements for chlorination.

#### MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, were renewed in respect of thirty-seven movable dwellings, and a new consent was granted in respect of one movable dwelling on the Willows Site, Waltham Cross, for a further period of twelve months.

Consents were also renewed in respect of caravans on the following sites:—

209 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.  
Pylon Farm, St. James Road.  
Springfield Nurseries, Crouch Lane.  
Land occupied by Smith, St. James Road.  
Sicklefield Nursery, Appleby Street.  
205 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

Two new applications were granted for caravans at Bulls Cross Ride, Theobalds Park and Newhaven, Rags Lane.

An application was considered in respect of a site at High View Farm, Crouch Lane. The applicant was informed of the requirements of the Council in relation to drainage, sanitary accommodation, water supply and hard standing which would be necessary before consent was granted.

An application under the Act in respect of an additional caravan at Newhaven, Rags Lane, was refused.

The caravan at 60 Longfield Lane was removed from the site during the year.

#### INFESTATION.

The use of contact insecticides and where necessary the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are the methods used to combat infestation.

One disinfestation for fleas and one for bed bugs were carried out during the year. The assistance of the department was sought on fifteen occasions to deal with wasps' nests in or around domestic premises and on one occasion to deal with flying ants.

# RODENT CONTROL

Year ended 31st March, 1956

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	all other (including Business and Industrial)
Total number of properties ...	7	7,701	173	935
Number of properties inspected .	5	1,976	9	69
Number of properties found to Major	1	5	—	—
be infested by rats ...	Minor 3	100	4	9
Number of properties found to Major	—	—	—	—
be infested by mice ...	Minor 2	17	—	6
Number of infested properties treated ...	6	122	4	15

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.

The annual test baiting of the soil sewers was carried out during March and of 97 manholes tested. partial and complete takes occurred in 17 manholes.

Poison treatment was carried out in the areas where takes were recorded.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected weekly and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit.

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years after the income from salvage sales had been deducted, was as follows:—

			Year to 31st March		
			1954	1955	1956
Population	...	...	24,670	25,350	26,090
Net Cost	...	...	£11,161	£12,281	£13,625
Cost per 1,000 population			£452	£484	£522

The Public Cleansing Costing Return published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the year 1955 shows the average annual refuse collection and disposal cost per 1,000 of the population of 93 authorities under 30,000 population to be £524.

The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills, Ltd., for the sale of waste paper until March, 1958.

A new electric baling press for waste paper was installed and put into operation in June.

The collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under annual contract.

Details of salvage sales during the year together with the figures for 1954 are as follows:—

	1954					1955				
	Weight		Value			Weight		Value		
	tons	cwt.	£	s.	d.	tons	cwt.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ...	242	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1574	19	2	291	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2311	12	1
Pig Food ...	223	0	269	3	4	234	0	280	8	4
Rags ...	10	4	386	18	5	11	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	407	10	10
Bottles & Jars	13	0	75	6	11	9	5	58	17	7
Metal ...	15	6	207	6	9	11	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	199	18	6
Cullet ...	3	8	5	17	9	3	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	10	6
	506	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	£2519	12	4	560	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	£3263	17	10

## REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

New consents were granted during the year to Messrs. Inns and Company, Ltd., and to the Cheshunt Sand and Gravel Co., Ltd., for the filling of pits at Cadmore Lane.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One licence to keep a pet shop was granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licence.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of food premises in the area classified according to type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	43
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	61
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	17
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	66
Cafes, Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6

During the year 575 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	202
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	79
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	51
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	31
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	25
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	153

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following food-stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Goods of all descriptions	...	1,133	tins
Beef	...	65	lb.
Bacon	...	24½	lb.
Sausages	...	20	lb.
Tea	...	3½	lb.
Milk Chocolate	...	1¼	lb.
Fish	...	42	lb.

Practically the whole of the foodstuffs surrendered were examined on request at retailers' or wholesalers' premises.

A number of complaints were received regarding unfit food-stuffs which had been sold.

The complaints concerned two instances of insects in loaves of bread; a veal pie and cream horns which were mouldy; a steak pie with a fly embedded in the pastry; chocolate infested with larvae of the cocoa moth and a slug in a bottle of milk.

All the complaints were taken up with the retailer, the manufacturer and where appropriate the local authority for the area where the product was made. In three cases the Council decided to issue warnings to the firms concerned.

The Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food identified the larvae of the Cocoa Moth in infested chocolate and an Entomologist from the Division made an inspection of the retailer's premises but no evidence that the infestation originated there was found. An inspection of the manufacturer's premises at the time of moth emergence is to be made by the Division to determine whether advice or control is necessary.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES.

Thirteen samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for laboratory examination during the year and all the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

In August a report was received from the County Council that a sample of milk taken from a farm in this district was submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli with positive results.

A notice under Article 20, Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, restricting the sale of milk from the farm was served on the occupier and all the milk was heat treated by the wholesaler before being sold to the public. The notice was withdrawn following the final report of the Divisional Veterinary Officer who made the farm investigation. The report stated that samples submitted for biological tests had been certified non-tuberculous.

In September a report was received from the County Council that a sample of milk from another farm in the district was positive to brucella abortus. The entire milk supply from this farm is heat treated at the wholesaler's depot.

## MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1955 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tester—Dealer's Licence ... ..	4
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence ...	4
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence ... ..	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence ... ..	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence ... ..	17
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence ... ..	5

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Two hundred and two visits were made to the two licensed slaughterhouses during the year and details of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known	176	—	5	660	458	—
Number inspected ...	176	—	5	660	458	—

*All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci*

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	32	—	—	15	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.18	—	—	2.27	2.62	—

*Tuberculosis only :*

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	12	—	—	—	24	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6.82	—	—	—	5.2	—

*Cysticercosis :*

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Both slaughterhouses are approved as Deadweight Certification Centres for Pigs and 299 pigs were inspected and certified under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

# METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tip or are sent to the Refuse incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.

Licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1955, to ten applicants to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse by the captive bolt method.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	64	79
Food Preparing Premises ...	22	143
Dairies ... ..	4	4

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Hertford, by the methylene blue test, and the samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 67 samples were submitted for examination, The results were as follows:—

Grade I	Wrapped ...	60	} 94.03%	} 95.52%
	Unwrapped .	3		
Grade II	Wrapped ...	1	} 2.99%	
Grade III	Wrapped ...	2		
Grade IV	Wrapped ...	1	1.49%	

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50% of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80% to Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

A copy of the laboratory report is supplied to the retailer in respect of all samples taken and where the sample is classified in Grades III or IV an advisory visit is made to the premises, and follow up samples are taken.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

As from the 1st October, 1955, the Council became the Food and Drugs Authority for the Urban District and the following informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis:—

Article			Analyst's Report
Pork Sausages	...		6% deficient of the required meat content.
Milk	...	...	Genuine.
Lard	...	...	Genuine.
Honey	...	...	Genuine.
Flour	...	...	Genuine.
Minced Turkey Paste			Genuine.
Table Jelly	...		Genuine.
Processed Cheese			Genuine.

After considering recent case law regarding sausages the Council decided that the Analyst's Report should be noted.

During the nine months ended 30th September, 1955, ten samples of milk and six samples of jam were procured in the Urban District by the County Council. All the samples were found on analysis to be genuine.

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